

1 1. (Amended) Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and
2 refilling an aquarium tank having a gravel-covered tank floor
3 comprising:

4 a) an elongated flexible hose having first and
5 second opposite ends;

6 b) a tube including an upper distal end for connec-
7 tion to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower
8 distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank
9 such that said lower end may be placed near the [bottom]
10 gravel on the floor of the aquarium tank;

11 c) a first means attachable to said second end of
12 said flexible hose and for connection to a flowing water
13 source for creating a continuous flow of water from the
14 tank through said tube and said flexible hose; [and,]

15 d) a grille, defined by a chamber and including a
16 plurality of apertures formed in the walls thereof that
17 are narrower than the width of the gravel particles
18 covering the floor of the aquarium, said grille and
19 chamber attached to said lower distal end of said tube for
20 contact with the gravel for moving the gravel about the
21 floor of the tank such that the gravel particles are
22 forced by said movement to bump and rub against each other
23 outside said tube to dislodge the sediment and impurities
24 that have gathered therewith, and wherein said sediment
25 and impurities are swept by said water flow through said
26 apertures into said chamber, up said tube and through said
27 hose for discard without the entrance of gravel into said
28 tube or hose; and,

1 e) wherein said grille includes a plurality of
2 tooth-shaped lattices covering said distal end of said
3 tube, for extending into the gravel, at least one of said
4 lattices being of a height greater than the depth of the
5 floor-covering gravel so as to always present a portion
6 of said apertured grille to the aquarium water above the
7 gravel to allow a continuous flow of water into said tube
8 to sweep the debris, that passes into said tube through
9 said apertures, out of the aquarium.

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11 34. (Amended) Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and
12 refilling an aquarium tank having a gravel-covered tank floor
13 comprising:

14 a) an elongated flexible hose having first and
15 second opposite ends;

16 b) a hollow tube including an upper distal open end
17 for connection to said first end of said flexible hose,
18 and a lower distal open end adapted to be immersed in the
19 aquarium tank such that said lower end may be placed near
20 the [bottom] gravel on the floor of the aquarium tank;

21 c) a water pump, including a pump inlet for connec-
22 tion to said flexible hose second end, for drawing a
23 continuous flow of water through said hose out of the
24 tank; and,

25 d) a grille, defined by a chamber and including a
26 plurality of apertures formed in the walls thereof that
27 are narrower than the width of the gravel particles, said
28 grille and chamber attached to said lower distal end of

1 said tube for contact with the gravel for moving the
2 gravel about the floor of the tank such that the gravel
3 particles covering the floor of the aquarium are forced
4 by said movement to bump and rub against each other
5 outside said tube to dislodge the sediment and impurities
6 that have gathered therewith, and wherein said sediment
7 and impurities are swept by said water flow through said
8 apertures into said chamber up said tube and through said
9 hose for discard at said pump outlet without the entrance
10 of gravel into said tube or hose;

11 e) wherein said grille includes a plurality of
12 three-dimensional tooth-shaped lattices, covering all of
13 said lower open distal end of said tube, said lattices
14 arranged parallel to each other, each said lattice being
15 of a height greater than the depth of the floor-covering
16 gravel so as to always present a portion of said apertured
17 grille to the aquarium water above the gravel to allow a
18 continuous flow of water into said tube to sweep the
19 debris, passing into said tube through said apertures, out
20 of the aquarium.

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22 41. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said grille
23 comprises:

24 a) a planar base frame defined by sides that form a
25 perimeter thereabout;

26 b) an opening formed in said frame about which, on
27 one side thereof, is located a means for attaching said
28 grille to said tube lower distal end;